

# Mid-Month Update



## The First Word



First United Methodist Church

July 12, 2018

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### Cindy Furr Begins Bi-Vocational Role With Elkin FUMC and Charity UMC



Take a moment, when given the opportunity, to congratulate the Rev. Cindy Furr. Yes, I have included her new title of reverend. Congratulate her for fulfilling a long held call from God to enter the ministry as a part-time Local Pastor.

What does this mean within the United Methodist Church and for us at First United Methodist Church? First of all, Cindy's job and responsibilities here at First, Elkin do not change. She remains in the same staff position with the same hours and responsibilities as always. She will, in addition, be serving quarter time (10 hours a week, more or less) as pastor of Charity UMC, so technically, Cindy becomes bi-vocational as I was for several years as both a pastor and a school counselor.

As a local pastor, Cindy will only have ecclesiastical authority in the church where she is appointed, meaning that she can only baptize, consecrate Holy Communion, and marry couples in Charity UMC and that privilege does not extend to FUMC, Elkin as this is not the church at which she is under episcopal appointment.

So, Cindy remains with us, but we will not see her during our worship on Sunday morning as she will be preaching each Sunday at Charity UMC. We will pray for her work there as this is part of what it means for us in the UMC to be a "connectional" church. Congratulations and prayers go with you Cindy. We are pleased to send you in God's name to do God's work. - Pastor Mike

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Celebrating Project AGAPE

*The Fun Begins This Friday, July 13!*



#### Kick-off Celebration!

Friday, July 13  
6:00-8:45 pm  
Covered dish dinner and pool party  
*Elkin Park Shelter & Pool*  
**Everyone welcome!**

#### VBS Activities

Saturday, July 14  
9:00 am-4:00 pm

#### Breakfast and Worship

Sunday, July 15 - 9:30 am  
*Armenian style breakfast followed by 10:55 worship to share our VBS experience. Everyone welcome!*

### Missions Celebration Set for July 29

Elkin FUMC Youth have been busy this Summer on several mission trips. Thanks to the generous support of our membership, our youth were able to minister to people in and around Casar, NC and in the Asheville area through Carolina Cross Connection

Join us on Sunday, July 29 for our 10:55 am Worship Service as our youth share highlights of how they have seen God at work this Summer through their mission work.

### Boxwood Blight Affects Elkin FUMC



Boxwood blight, a fungus that has been found throughout yards in the Elkin area, has been confirmed among the boxwoods on our grounds. The Trustees have consulted with two professionals about how to handle the situation. *Not all of our boxwoods are affected.* To control the spread of the disease, four boxwoods will be removed—one to the right of the chapel door and three at the fire escape at the east classroom wing entrance. Others will be pruned to remove diseased areas. When removal is completed, we will begin a fungicide spray routine to prevent further spread of the fungus and improve the overall health of the shrubs. The fungus can't be killed, but it can be controlled.

The fungus grows rapidly in warm, humid weather. Its spores are sticky and can be spread by deer, dogs, cats, or rabbits brushing up against a diseased shrub, or by dead, infected leaves adhering to soles of shoes.

The Trustees ask that you not use the east classroom entrance (side entrance closest to the dumpster) to avoid coming in contact with the fungus spores accidentally. Avoid touching any of the boxwoods or taking any cuttings. If you have questions, please call Martha Smith or Steve Wells.

# Announcements & Reminders

**H.O.P.E. AND RESILIENCE - A TALK BY KRISTAN SEAFORD:** A counselor, amputee, athlete, mother, and wife, Kristan will teach resilience using her unique acronym H.O.P.E. Sharing examples from her survival and recovery from a devastating illness, as well as her knowledge of counseling and psychology, Kristan will show audience members how to tackle obstacles, personal or professional, in their own lives. Monday, July 16, 6:00 pm at the Elkin Public Library. Kristan is the daughter-in-law of Omegia and Jeff Seaford.

**BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE:** Thanks to all of you who provided snacks, volunteered your time and/or gave blood during our recent blood drive. We came up a little short of our 15 pint goal and collected 11 pints of blood. However, those 11 pints can save up to 33 lives!

**PASTOR MIKE ON VACATION:** Pastor Mike will be out of the office on vacation from July 29 through August 9. Our own Rev. Cindy Furr will be on call for emergencies while he is out of town. Please contact the church office if you have a need or prayer request.

**PRESCHOOL NOW ENROLLING:** It's already time to begin enrolling in our Weekday Programs for the 2018-2019 school year. We only have a few spots left in the 4 year old class. For more info contact Weekday Programs Director, Beth Darnell at 336-835-2323 or bdarnell@elkinfumc.org.

**AFRICA MISSION TRIP:** In August, Jon Garing will serve on a medical & building team trip to Africa with other United Methodists from the Louisiana Conference. Financial donations are being accepted to help the team purchase medical supplies/building supplies needed for the trip. If you would like to make a donation, please indicate "Africa Mission Trip" on your check. We will accept donations through Sunday, July 15 and then forward the donations to the trip's team leader so the supplies can be purchased ahead of the trip.

**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC:** Mark your calendar! Our annual church picnic is going to be held at the **Elkin Municipal Park, Shelter #1** beginning at 4:00 pm on Sunday, August 26. *Please note the new location this year.* Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Everyone is also invited to bring games to play (i.e. corn hole, bocce, volleyball, etc.)

**TRI-C REQUESTS SALTINE CRACKERS:** Tri-C has asked if we can begin donating Saltine Crackers instead of Toilet Tissue. Please place crackers in the basket in the entryway of the church office.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Church Family:** Zack Trexler, Paulette McCauley, Libbi Parks, Emad Elkhayat, Ray Fencl, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Bill Amburn, Ercel Carter, Dan & Sallie Park, Laura Gwyn, Gary Conrad, Bonnie Stuart, Loretta Cash, Roland Cash, Tim & Jennifer Brown, Jerre Boren, Donna Thompson, Family of Ann Graham, Family of Betty Tesh, nursing home residents & homebound

**Extended Care:** Mary Cockerham, Iris Amburn, Mary Neil, Bliss Vanderpool

**Extended Family:** Priscilla Smith, Marc Bishop, Buck Freeman, Lorene Newman, Michael Hines, Dennis Staley, Robert Miller, Joan Shuford, Dr. Gladys Campbell, Nan Boyd, Lonnie Snider, Teresa Shook, Millie Joyce, Martha Key, Kidd Family, Phyllis Lowe, Judy Moody, Abe Heath, Betsy Robertson's Mother, Andrew Reece, Avery Neaves, Connie Partin, Jeff Wishon, Brian Wilkenson, Nancy Yale, Family of Faye Martin, Family of Paul Tucker, Family of Tim Evans, Keith Stanley, Damon Long, Family of Jay Steeves, Rick Smoot, Linda Caudill

**All of our military personnel and their families**

## Hughes Joins District Office Staff



Rev. Gloria Hughes joined the staff of the Appalachian District Office as the new Church Vitality Strategist on July 1. Rev. Hughes is a passionate lover of God and people. She is an ordained Deacon in The United Methodist Church and serves as the Chair of the Order of Deacons for the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. Gloria also serves on the Executive Team of the Board of Ordained Ministry and is a member of the Conference Residency in Ordained Ministry (RIOM) Relations Team.

Gloria comes to us from Clemmons UMC where she lead the congregation in Discipleship and Equipping the Laity for Ministry and Outreach. She brings with her a passion and gift for helping others develop faithful "followship" of Jesus and living into their own call as passionate disciples of Jesus Christ.

She is also a founding team member of The Foundation for Christian Formation, which leads an annual series of Confirmation retreats (which our youth here at Elkin FUMC have attended the past several years) for churches of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church.

Rev. Hughes is married to The Rev. Chris B. Hughes, a United Methodist Elder in the Western North Carolina Conference. Together they have five children and five grandchildren. It is with great excitement that we look forward to her being in ministry for and with the people of the Appalachian District.

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